

REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-6, 8-18, and 20-26 are pending. Claims 1, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26 have been amended; no claims are cancelled, and no new claims are added. Applicant believes no new matter has been added.

In view of the foregoing Amendment and the following Remarks, allowance of the pending claims is requested.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicant thanks Examiner Cardone and Examiner Swearingen for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representatives Rick Toering and Timothy Rooney during the interview of November 1, 2005. During the interview, the parties discussed Applicant's invention and U.S. Patent No. 6,012,095 to Thompson et al ("Thompson").

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 8-18, and 20-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Thompson. Applicant traverses the rejection because Thompson does not teach or suggest the invention. Nevertheless, solely in an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 26 to further clarify that which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 2-5, 9, 10, 12, 14 – 17, 24, and 25 each depend from and add features to one of the above amended independent claims. Accordingly, these dependent claims are also patentable over the reference relied upon by the Examiner. As such, the rejection to claims 1-6, 8-18, and 20-26 must be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

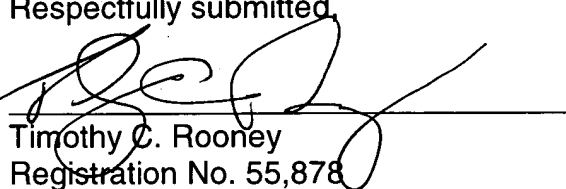
Having addressed each of the foregoing rejections, it is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

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Respectfully submitted,

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